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AFDROUGHT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, SWEL, XY

SUBJ: CARNEGIE ENDOWMENT REPORT ON SAHELIAN RELIEF

PARIS FOR HELMAN, BRUSSELS FOR USEC MARTIN, ROME FOR FODAG,
LONDON FOR BAAS

1. THE CARNEGIE ENDOWMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE ISSUED A REPORT ON MARCH 3 ENTITLED -DISASTER IN THE DESERT - FAILURES OF INTERNATIONAL RELIEF IN THE WEST AFRICAN DROUGHT". COPIES OF THE REPORT ARE BEING POUCHED AND THE TEXT OF ITS ACCOMPANYING PRESS RELEASE AND A PRELIMINARY AID COMMENT, ALSO DATED MARCH 3, ARE BEING CABLED SEPARATELY.

2. THE REPORT IS CRITICAL OF SAHELIAN RELIEF EFFORTS BY THE USG, THE UN, AND OTHERS, ESSENTIALLY BECAUSE, IT ARGUES, THE DROUGHT AND ITS EFFECTS WERE FORESEEABLE AND HAD IN FACT BEEN FORESEEN BY US AND UN OBSERVERS, BUT BUREAUCRATIC INERTIA AND INTERNAL DIFFERENCES BROUGHT FORTH TOO LITTLE AND TOO LATE TO PREVENT WIDESPREAD DEATH BY FAMINE, MALNUTRITION AND DISEASE. DRAWING FROM AN ESTIMATE BY THE US CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL (CDC) WHICH MADE NUTRITION SURVEYS IN THE AREA IN THE LATE SUMMER OF 1973 THAT PERHAPS 100,000 PERSONS DIED AS A RESULT OF THE CONDITIONS BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE DROUGHT, THE REPORT ASSUMES THIS FIGURE TO BE THE MEASURE OF NUMBER OF VICTIMS.

OFFICIALS OF THE USG IN AID, STATE, CDC, THE WHITE HOUSE, AND ELSEWHERE, AND CABLES AND OFFICIAL REPORTS ARE QUOTED EXTENSIVELY AS EVIDENCE OF THE ALLEGED "FAILURE". REPORTING BY JOURNALISTS AND TV PERSONALITIES WHO FOLLOWED THE DROUGHT PROBLEM IN 1973 IS ALSO FEATURED IN AN EFFORT TO SUPPORT THE CASE FOR THE ENDOWMENT'S ESSENTIALLY ANTIPATHETIC AND BIASED REPORT. REPORT DOES CITE THE MANY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROBLEMS OF AVAILABILITY, SHIPPING, LACK OF INFORMATION, ETC, INVOLVED IN OUR RELIEF EFFORTS, HOWEVER, AND CONCLUDES THAT AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION SHOULD BE CREATED TO RESPOND TO DISASTERS.

3. REFERENCE TO THE SPECIAL PROBLEM OF THE NOMADS AND DISCRIMINATION BY SAHELIAN GOVERNMENTS AGAINST THEM SURFACES FREQUENTLY. CHARGES OF ADMINISTRATIVE DEFICIENCIES

AND SLOWNESS TO RECOGNIZE, OR AT LEAST APPEAL TO WORLD
OPINION FOR ASSISTANCE, ARE ALSO MADE AGAINST SAHELIAN
GOVERNMENTS. AND DIORI IS QUOTED FROM THE CBS-TV PROGRAM
OF LAST AUGUST - THE BORDER OF HELL - AS SAYING "THE
POORER YOU ARE, THE LESS YOU GET".

4. PUBLIC AND MEDIA REACTION HERE TO THE REPORT IS NOT
YET CLEAR, BUT IT IS BOUND TO GENERATE INQUIRIES FROM ALL
QUARTERS. IF YOU ARE QUERIED, YOU SHOULD DRAW ON THE AID
COMMENT. WE WOULD HOPE THAT LOCAL AUTHORITIES WOULD REACT,
AS DID ONE SAHELIAN AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON, THAT REPORT
SIMPLY IS UNFAIR IN ITS FAILURE TO RECOGNIZE WHAT HAS BEEN
ACCOMPLISHED BY THE USG AND OTHER DONORS, AND THE DEGREE
TO WHICH A MUCH VASTER CATASTROPHE HAS BEEN AVERTED.

5. THE WASHINGTON ADDRESS OF THE CARNEGIE ENDOWMENT IS
1717 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036.
SHOULD LOCAL AUTHORITIES WISH TO EXPRESS THEIR OWN VIEWS,
IF AND WHEN THEY BECOME FAMILIAR WITH THE REPORT, THEY
SHOULD DO SO TO THAT ADDRESS, ATTENTION ROGER MORRIS. KISSINGER

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